

(d) Possibilities are being explored by the Government for extending pension coverage to identifiable groups who are presently not covered under the EPF Scheme.

Sub-regional offices of P.F. in Kerala

1307. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Sub-regional offices of Provident Fund functioning in Kerala;
- (b) whether Government have taken a decision to open a Sub-regional Provident Fund office at Kollam in Kerala; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) There are four Sub-regional office of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in Kerala located at Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Kannur & Kottayam. The Executive Committee, Control Board of Trustees (EPF) in its meeting held on 5.9.2001 has approved the opening of Sub-Regional offices at Kollam in Kerala.

Abolition of Child labour

†1308. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed a target to abolish child labour from the country by the year 2010;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government's programme for providing vocational training to rehabilitate the child labourers has been going on since long and under this programme an amount of Rs. 567 crores was allocated under this head during the period from 1980 to 2000 but merely Rs. 32 crores could be utilised out of this; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, the elimination of which would need sustained efforts over a period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal of children from work and their

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

rehabilitation. In the National Conference on the Child Labour held in New Delhi in January 2001, it was also resolved that all efforts be made for complete elimination of child labour.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has implemented two schemes, for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under NCLP is running special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipends etc. Under the Scheme of grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of children withdrawn from work.

The Budget provision for the Eight Five year Plan Period (1992—1997) was initially Rs. 15 crore and later increased to Rs. 100.76 crore. Expenditure was Rs. 74.71 crore. The Budget allocation for the Ninth Plan period is Rs. 249.60 crores. As against this an expenditure of Rs. 167.42 crore has already been incurred.

Plight of the Child workers engaged in Bhadohi Carpet Industry

†1309. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that soft and tender fingers of the children have got blunt in Bhadohi carpet Industry due to knotting work and their skin has turned black due to hours long sitting in front of burning furnaces in glass industry;

(b) whether all this is going on unhindered in spite of all rules and laws in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the country would be free from the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) As per the information received from the State Government, no such cases have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) The Central Government is responsible for enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, in Railways, major

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